

64-04-13

## **Trolling With One Line per Angler**

### **The Problem:**

A statewide rule change to allow trolling with three lines per angler would create significant problems for anglers and boating users on Vilas County waters. Although blessed with 1,318 lakes and ponds, the average size is very small – approximately 71 acres. If the 563 named waters are averaged, lake size only increases to 162 acres.

The problem as witnessed in the early 1990's when backtrolling with up to three lines per angler became popular was sharing the lake resource equitably with all users – anglers, recreational boaters, water skiers, canoes/kayakers, swimmers, pontoon boaters, etc. Boats with 6, 9 or more lines on planer boards occupy large expanses as they make a trolling pass on a shoreline drop-off, mid-lake hump, or weedline edge – areas often popular with seasonal boating and tourism. Conflicts often occurred - including verbal exchanges between trolling anglers with multiple lines and others either anchored, casting shorelines, fishing mid-lake structures, or enjoying recreational boating. North Twin, Presque Isle, Oxbow, Trout, Big Lake, Papoose Lake are just a few examples of reported conflicts with trolling/planer board anglers and other recreational lake users.

Allowing motor trolling with one line per license would minimize conflicts between boating recreation users and anglers. This rule better fits the smaller waters of Vilas County rather than imposing trolling with up to three lines per angler. This technique is better suited for large expanses of water – a Winnebago, Green Bay, Mendota, for example, rather than small glacial lakes and ponds of Vilas County.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in St. Germain on April 8, 2013 recommends DNR implementation of trolling with one line per angler in Vilas County

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